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INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY

Calme.

DATE OF

1951 INFORMATION

SUBJECT

Enchomic - Agriculture, ಗೇಡೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕಾ

HOW

Daily neverages PUBL:SHED

DATE DIST. 5 Sep 1951

WHERE

PUBLISHED

Peiging

2 NO. OF PAGES

DATE

PUBLISHED

11 May 191-

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Chinese

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

STATE ARMY

Jen-min Jih-pac

MINISTRY OF AURICULTURE FROMOTES SEED-SELECTION FROGRAM IN CHINA

The Office of Fo.6 Priduction, Ministry of Agriculture, People a Republic of China, is promoting seed selection as a means to increase find production. In 1950, 9 million mou fone mou equals 1/6 access to farmland were planted with givernmentdistributed selected se de while 50 million will were planted with selected seeds chosen by the farmers themselves. So far this year, seed companies have purchased over 6 % molecon cattles of selected seeds from the farmers

The withmate sim if the sand-is entire program is to teach the farmers to select, appraise, and distribute their own seeds The National Seed Selection Confedence helps to pool ideas and experience: Last year, 508 hasens throughout the country participated in the program (mass the program, seeds that are particularly meeded by certain conditite are to be developed For example, the present special need in Wirth China is a rust-: sistant wheat

According to the Office of Bood Production, Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of China one of the important means for increasing agricultural production is to use high-quality seeds. To siquire such seeds, a process of seed selection, seed appraisal, and seed outture must be worked out. Last year, the program of supplying high-quality seeds showed excellent results in the special districts of Hopen, Fingyuan, and Shantung. Fact of the following discussion is based on the experience and ideas accumulated from those areas.

Nationally, the seed-selection and distribution program was very successful in 1950. Incomplete date show that over 9 million mou of fermland were planted with selected seeds during 1950. This exceeded the planned goal by 136 percent. Seeds selected by the farmers themselves without state supervision totaled over 300 million cattles, enough to see more than 50 million mou. Last year 548 haiens in the country participated in the seed-selection program while 1,681 varieties of seeds were chosen Shantung a Man-ta un-thin adyteans, Pingyuan's No 50 wheat and Shenel Pi-ma (1) /numbers in parentheses refer to appended characters 7 No 1 wheat, are a few of the well-known varieties.

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During this yet, and compenses in the country have purchased over 6.5 million cattles of selected seeds. Over 85 percent of the selected summer wheat seed and 95 percent of the autumn wheat seed is pure, i.e., not mixed with nonselected seeds. However, in the beginning of the program, due to confusion and work pressure, seed companies often accepted seed which was not carefully selected. This damaged the prest do of the companies and discouraged some farmers from using selected seed. The worst example is the collection of 400,000 cattles of wheat seed No.75 from Honan which was found later to be infected with nematodes. Such mastakes would have been avoided if the National Seed Selection Conference had been functioning. It is hoped that the present system of improvement and large-scale distribution will help to erase the bad impression acquired by the companies

The helen agricultural experimental station is the center of the seed-selection program at present. In addition to guiding the selection and distribution of selected seeds, the station also tries to introduce new agricultural techniques to the farmers from day to day. Emulation and competitive production by the farmers is one ursged by each bein. The ultimate aim of the seed-selection program is to teach the farmers to select, judge, and distribute their own seeds.

The first batch of selected seeds should be examined and raised by the haien agricultural station. If the seed is to be produced for general distribution, model lits located at the general area where the seed will be distributed are used for the planting. Some of the seed chosen by the provincial agriculture experimental station is planted on special farms by the station before the remainder is distributed to the appropriate haien station. These seed plots will be used in checking results and planting data

Seed selection at the village level does not require that every village participate. Villages having similar soil conditions may designate only one to make the tests. However, half of the villages in a halen must participate in the halen seed-selection program to insure a representative cross section. During the wheat seed-selection movement last fall, over 60 percent of the During the wheat seed-selection movement last fall, over 60 percent of the farm units participated. Whether the selection is to be held once or twice a year depends primarily on the decision of the halen, subject to the approval of the provincial government.

The farmers are encouraged to set up their own experimental farms to cultivate and produce selected seed continuously. In the past year, much experience has been gained in seed selection by individual farmers. It is the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture to promote that type of selection. The provincial experimental station should take into consideration the particular need of the province and the resources available in the field in determining the type of seed to be included in the selection program.

At pleaent, the need in North (hina is to develop 5 rust-resistant wheat. while Central China needs an early-maturing and high-yielding wheat as well as a better quality of rice. In the soybean-producing area, greater production of the export type of soybean is necessary. The primary goals in seed selection at the present are high-yielding, discuse-resisting, top-quality seeds. In carrying out the program, precaution must be taken to avoid spreading plant in carrying out the program, precaution must be taken to avoid spreading plant disease through the seeds. Cleaning sil the selected seeds with salt solution and educating the farmers to avoid contamination are necessary precautions. Careful organization and supervision by the cadres is important to insure the success of the present seed-selection program.

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